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From The Commander

Why I Do What We Do ...

Taking command of The United States Air Force Band on the heels of Memorial Day weekend was especially sobering and humbling. Walking with my mom and dad among the memorials here in DC and visiting the site where my uncle and aunt rest in Arlington National Cemetery were poignant reminders of why I do what we do.

Each time we don Air Force blue ... each time we, as members of an Air Force band, execute our mission we represent those who have served before us and those warriors beside whom we bear arms today. For me personally, it's my great-uncles, my father's three brothers, my uncle, my wife's father and uncle ... and my dad ... who all faced combat in the uniforms of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Flying Tigers during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It's also my friend who lost his life eight years ago fighting terrorism, many close friends who continue to be assigned in harms' way and those who are taking the fight to the enemy. It's my nephew serving in the "AOR" as a computer forensic specialist; my son-in-law serving as a Special Agent in the Air Force OSI; my son serving as a software engineer with a major Defense contractor; and my daughter, who served a tour of duty in Air Force blue. It's heroes like retired Brigadier General Robbie Risner, Colonel Bud Day, Colonel Joe Jackson and the late Brigadier General Joe Foss, all whom I was privileged to meet, interview and honor through a special musical production.

[Read more...](#)

Celebrate Independence Day!

This year, there will be three exciting opportunities to celebrate Independence Day with The United States Air Force Band. The Airmen of Note will perform at the Smithsonian American Art Museum on Saturday, July 3 and Sunday, July 4 at 1 p.m. You can catch Max Impact at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., on July 4 at 6 p.m. Finally, the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants will present an evening of patriotic favorites on July 4 at 8 p.m. at the Air Force Memorial. All events are free and open to the public.

[Read more...](#)



Colonel Gabriel Honored

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organization Foundation's (NECO) Board of Directors and Selection Committee selected retired Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel as the recipient of the 2010 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The medal was awarded to Colonel Gabriel on May 8, 2010, in a ceremony on Ellis Island, N.Y., in the Great Hall--where his own parents walked through almost one hundred years ago. Colonel Gabriel was the Commander and Conductor of The U.S. Air Force Band from 1964 until 1985. Past medalists have included six U.S. Presidents, as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, the arts, professional sports and government.

[Read more...](#)

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Airmen of Note and The Smithsonian: Two National Treasures

On Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 4, the Airmen of Note will perform at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Each concert, featuring hits from the 1940s as well as modern jazz favorites, will begin at 1 p.m. The performances are free and open to the public; no tickets are required. The event will celebrate the opening of *Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell from the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg*. The American Art Museum is located at 8th and F Streets, NW, and is accessible via Metro's Red, Yellow and Green lines at the Gallery Place/Chinatown station.

[Read more...](#)



Chief Bids Farewell

Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Cox, a clarinetist and the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the Concert Band, retired from the Air Force in June. Originally from Columbia, S.C., her career in the Air Force began in 1990 as a clarinetist with the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Va. She served as principal clarinet with the Band from October 1990 until she won an audition for The United States Air Force Band in January 1997.

[Read more...](#)

Air Chief's Twilight Tattoo Complete Success

The Air Force Chief of Staff's Conference of American Air Chiefs Twilight Tattoo was held on June 13 on the U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Lawn on Bolling Air Force Base. The event featured The United States Air Force Band and Honor Guard. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, hosted the event celebrating "50 Years of Friendship and Cooperation" between nations belonging to the System of Cooperation among American Air Forces. Max Impact and the Ceremonial Brass provided musical accompaniment to breath-taking drill maneuvers and a color guard unit displaying flags from each of the represented nations.



"This is a very special group of talented musicians and a special group of warrior Airmen with high skill levels," said Lt. Col. A. Philip Waite, making his conducting debut as Commander of The USAF Band. "They bring to the fight a level of professionalism that is unmatched. It was great fun to conduct them in this truly magnificent ceremony. I felt proud and humbled to stand on that field with the Ceremonial Brass and Honor Guard."

[Read more...](#)

Concert Band Featured at ITEC

The Concert Band performed at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference (ITEC) on Saturday, May 29, in Tucson, Ariz. The concert featured several world-renowned soloists, including our own Chief Master Sgt. Ann Hinote and Master Sgt. Brian Sands. The event was a marvelous opportunity for the Air Force to be showcased before over 2,000 industry professionals. The concert was a program of contemporary music, featuring soloists from Italy, Belgium, Australia and the U.S.

[Read more...](#)

Upcoming Events

3rd of July Event

The Airmen of Note in Concert
- Washington, D.C.

4th of July Events

The Airmen of Note in Concert
- Washington, D.C.

Max Impact in Concert
- Washington, D.C.

Concert Band & Singing Sergeants
in Concert - Arlington, Virginia

Summer Concert Series

At the Air Force Memorial
- Arlington, Virginia

Jul 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 & 30

At the U.S. Capitol Steps

Jul 6, 13, 20 & 27

Save the Date!

Singing Sergeants Alumni Concert

Saturday, August 7
- Washington, D.C.

Please see our [calendar](#) for specific information on these and other upcoming performances!

A Day in the Life...



...Of The Singing Sergeants
By Technical Sgt. Joseph Haughton

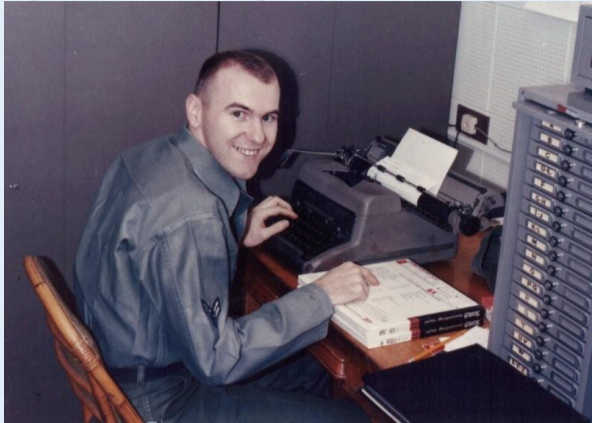
The Singing Sergeants are an 18-member ensemble, and they are often seen at The White House, Arlington National Cemetery or at many other venues throughout the National Capital Region. Their repertoire covers everything from opera to Billy Joel, with each member contributing in a very unique way.

[Read more...](#)

Recollections

The United States Air Force Band is continually working to expand our archives and capture details of the historic music made throughout the years. "Recollections" was designed to enlist your help in this process. If you have any behind-the-scenes stories from these events or memories to share from the featured photographs, please email Band Historian Technical Sgt. Tracey MacDonald at USAFBandHistorian@afncr.af.mil. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Please click an image below to see it on our website. When there, select "Download Full Image" to view a larger, more detailed picture.



Recollections Revealed

To read newly-discovered background information pertaining to the photos we included in last month's Cadenza, please [click here](#).

Hails and Farewells

The United States Air Force Band wishes to say thank you and farewell to the following members:

Senior Master Sergeant Jennifer K. Connors , Commander's Executive Assistant -*Separation*

Cadenza

Lieutenant Colonel A. Phillip Waite, *Commander and Conductor*
Senior Master Sergeant Jennifer Pagnard, *Director of Marketing and Outreach*
Senior Master Sergeant Robin A. McConnell, *Managing Editor*
Master Sergeant Brian McCurdy, *Editor in Chief*
Technical Sergeant Matthew Smith, *Graphic Layout, Online Distribution, & Web Publishing*
Technical Sergeants Brooke Emery, Josh Kowalsky and Ni Santiago, *Contributing Editors*
Technical Sergeant Tracey MacDonald, *Band Historian*
Master Sergeant Linda C. Waring, *Director of Photo Services*
BAFB Photo Lab, *Photography*